

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, US, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH BASE AGREEMENT - SEN. EAGLETON'S REACTION

FOR AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY FROM JENKINS

1. WHEN I PHONED EAGLETON TO INFORM HIM OF THE DECISION TO SUBMIT AS A TREATY, HE EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION WITH THIS DECISION. HE THEN PHONED BACK AND ASKED THAT WE CABLE YOU THE FOLLOWING:

2. "NEWS RELEASE - JANUARY 23, 1976: EAGLETON PRAISES DECISION TO SUBMIT SPANISH AGREEMENT AS TREATY. SENATOR THOMAS F. EAGLETON (D-MO) TODAY PRAISED PRESIDENT FORD'S DECISION TO SUBMIT THE NEW AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN ON U.S. MILITARY BASES TO THE SENATE FOR RATIFICATION AS A TREATY.

3. "THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT CONCESSION TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE OF THE SENATE," EAGLETON SAID.

4. "IN THE CONTEXT OF MODERN TIMES, WHEN PRESIDENTS HAVE

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TOO READILY IGNORED CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS, THIS IS A

SIGNIFICANT GESTURE AND SHOULD HELP CLOSE THE GULF BETWEEN
CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT IN THE AREA OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

5. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT OUR BASIC RELATIONSHIP
WITH SPAIN WILL NOT CHANGE AND THAT THE TREATY WILL NOT
COMMIT THE UNITED STATES TO THE DEFENSE OF THAT NATION.
THIS FACTOR SHOULD GREATLY ENHANCE THE CHANCES FOR SENATE
RATIFICATION.

6. 'I FEEL CONFIDENT THAT THE SENATE WILL NOW EXPEDITIOUS-
LY BUT THOROUGHLY CONSIDER THIS IMPORTANT AGREEMENT IN A
RESPONSIBLE MANNER.'" END TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE.

7. SENATOR EAGLETON ALSO WANTED TO ADD A PERSONAL NOTE
TO YOU AS FOLLOWS:

8. "DEAR BOB: CONGRATULATIONS ON REACHING AGREEMENT AND
ON DECISION TO SUBMIT AS TREATY. VERY MUCH APPRECIATE
YOUR KEEPING ME INFORMED OF EVENTS. TOM EAGLETON" SISCO

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